

From: BOBJAZLOVR@aol.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/3/02 1:31am
Subject: MICROSOFT SETTLEMENT

MICROSOFT became a "monopoly" by offering consumers a product that simply beat the pants off their competition (IBM, Apple, Sun, Linux to name a few). To this day none of these companies have ever developed a mass market operating software system to come close to MSFT. Microsoft then proceeded to improve its basic operating system to make it easier for the MSFT customer to access the internet and have the added capability of having the browser interact with its OS systems in a simple, easy manner to learn and operate. So far the consumer is not complaining, not about the bundling, not about the price, not about the fact that computer hardware mfrs and retailers have all this great stuff preloaded on their machines so all the consumer has to do is plug in the computer, follow a few simple instructions and they are off to do a lot of very productive, or non productive work, as they can choose to do! If you read the latest numbers, the number of people ordering merchandise of all sorts on the internet has been booming, recession or no recession. So far MSFT has offered a superior product, offers it at reasonable price, and has made it possible for people of all ages to learn to use the internet to satisfy new workplace requirements and support new internet businesses.

So what's wrong with this picture? Consumers are not injured in any way. They are free to buy Apple computers, if they like, they can buy a machine and have Linux loaded as the operating system, if they like, or Java, or Unix or IBM's OS, if they like, except that they don't!! MSFT doesn't make the computers, or any components, all they do is supply software that is designed to function as easily and smoothly as possible with the latest bells and whistles that the hardware makes possible. Their complaining competitors, some of which are much larger than MSFT, are free to do better, but they haven't. Have you seen any new browser products being offered by these crybaby's to compete with Explorer...??? The MSFT software, a miniscule and continually declining % of the price of the newest computers, whose prices keep going south even as the capabilities of the machines are ten fold from a few years ago!

Having done all this, no harm except to non competitive competitors, seems evident to me and that is no different from the situation in any number of other industries.

Go to any department store and you will see the same brands featured in every major store. Why is that not being investigated? Tobacco companies offer discounts to gain shelf space, so do companies like P&G. How about those sales of Coca-Cola and Pepsi that never occur at the same time. One week Pepsi, next week Coke. Hello, does this look like normal competition? You don't see gas stations alternating promotions with the guy across the street, they match prices a dozen times a day!!

MSFT has not done anything any other company would not do to grow and survive competitive challenges. Are they hardnose? Yes! So what's new?

I recall Netscape execs claiming they were going to develop a browser that

would "surround" the MSFT operating system and make it subservient to the Netscape browser?? Sun has been screaming JAVA for years, but where's the Sun Java O/S to go head to head with MSFT? Same with Linux, where's the beef?

So, let MSFT get on with what it does best...software that keeps adding ,improving without wasting our taxes chasing a great company that leads not only the US, but any company in the world in it's field!!! Are we upset we have one standard VCR format? Arent we trying to standardize digital?, broadband, telecom systems to broaden efficient use and make it easier for consumers? MSFT has done that with out any GOvt help. Tell the states to look for some other patsy to try and extort money from and leave MSFT alone. Do no harm to consumers is the litmus test for anti trust,,,there is none here. You want to protect choice? Consumers have already chosen ...with their pocket books...let it go!!

Thank you...a citizen who thinks the DOJ has better things to do with our taxes!!!

Robert Conti